

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (original): A connector means comprising a short section of flexible material with multiple longitudinal channels along its perimeter wherein the connector means is inserted into an elongated container and positioned at an opening means to retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container.

Claim 2 (original): A connector means comprising a short cylindrical section of flexible material with multiple elongated openings around its circumference wherein the connector means is placed around an opening means of an elongated container to retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container.

Claim 3 (original): A connector means as in claim 2, wherein said short cylindrical section of flexible material has a closed end and an open end wherein the connector means is placed over the end of the elongated container and around an opening means of said elongated container to retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A connector means comprising a short section of material with a reduced section between its two ends wherein the connector means is inserted into an elongated container with the reduced section positioned at an opening means of said container and wherein

Application No.: 10/645,135

Amendment dated: March 6, 2007

Reply to Office Action of: September 7, 2006

the connector means will retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A connector means as in claim 4, wherein said short section of material with a reduced section between its two ends further comprising an elongated protrusion at one end wherein the connector means is inserted into an elongated container with the reduced section positioned at the opening means and with the elongated protrusion directed away from the section of the container that will be broken off wherein the connector means will retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container and wherein the connector means may be pulled out along with the broken off section of the container to be used as a toothpick.

Claim 6 (original): A connector means comprising a short section of material with an elliptical profile wherein the connector means is inserted into an elongated container and positioned at an opening means and wherein the connector means will retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container.

Claim 7 (original): A connector means as in claim 6, wherein said short section of material with the elliptical profile further comprising an elongated protrusion at one end wherein the connector means is inserted into an elongated container and positioned at the opening means with the elongated protrusion directed away from the section of the container that will be broken off wherein the connector means will retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container and wherein the connector means may be pulled out along with the broken off section of the container to be used as a toothpick.